THE TYPE OF CLEMATIS HIRSUTISSIMA

Ralph O. Erickson

Clematis hirsutissima was described by Pursh on the basis of material collected on the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804–1806. Pursh's description is adequate and unmistakably refers to a *Clematis,* but in his comment on the species he points out that "it very much resembles [*Anemone Pulsatilla*] in several respects," and expresses the opinion that "all the division of *Anemones* with caudated seeds . . . belong to this genus [*Clematis*], or at least to one separate from *Anemone.*" Later Pursh mistakenly applied his name *C. hirsutissima* to specimens of an *Anemone* collected by Nuttall (Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 5: 159. 1825). Pursh's contemporaries were not willing to place the "*Anemones* with caudated seeds" in the genus *Clematis,* but rather assumed that his *C. hirsutissima* was an *Anemone,* and this was the traditional view until Meehan in 1896 discovered duplicates of most of the Lewis and Clark plants in Philadelphia. In the meantime, *C. Douglasii* Hooker had been published with a long description and a plate, and this name was generally accepted for the western *Clematis.*

Meehan (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 50: 12–49. 1898) lists the specimen of *C. hirsutissima* under *C. Douglasii* with the notation, "[No label; a single flower, but well identifiable]." Further on he lists another specimen with the comment, "[Composite? Poor, sterile, and not placed; leaves opposite, much divided into narrow segments, very pubescent]. One of the most common plants of the plains of Columbia. May 27, 1806."

During a recent visit to the herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the writer found the "single flower" of *C. hirsutissima* mounted on a sheet with the following note by Meehan, "Clematis Douglasii H. no ticket with the specimen probably Kooskooskee. It has been collected on the Clearwater by Spalding." Attached to this sheet with a paper clip was a second sheet bearing the specimen which Meehan had labelled, "Compositae?", and a label in Pursh's hand, "One of the most common plants of the plains of Columbia. May 27, 1806." It was obvious at once that both were *C. hirsutissima,* and careful examination of the broken ends of the peduncle showed that they could be fitted together exactly. Credit for associating these two fragments apparently belongs to Rydberg and to Piper, since the "Compositae?" sheet bore the annotations, "Clematis Douglasii? P. A. R. 1905," and (apparently later) "certainly C. Douglasii C. V. P." They have now been remounted on a single sheet.

It is now possible not only to settle once and for all the status of Pursh's name *C. hirsutissima,* but to establish the type locality more accurately. On May 27, 1806, Lewis and Clark were at "Camp Chopunnish," which was "in Shoshone Co., across the river from, and nearly opposite, . . . present Kamai or Kamiah,

in Nez Percés Co., Ida." (Coues, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 50: 293 & 306. 1898). From a study of the Lewis and Clark journal for that day, it is possible to say only that the plant could not have been collected at any great distance from the camp.

Appended is a portion of the pertinent synonymy:

CLEMATIS HIRSUTISSIMA Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 2: 385. 1814. *Clematis Douglasii* Hook. Fl. Bor. Am. 1: 1, pl. 1. 1829.

ANEMONE NUTTALLIANA DC. Syst. 1: 193. 1818. *A. patens* var. *hirsutissima* Hitchcock, Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis 5: 482. 1891. *Pulsatilla hirsutissima* Britt. Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. 6: 217. 1891. *Anemone hirsutissima* MacMillan, Metasp. Minn. Valley, 239. 1892.

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Francis Ramaley,[1] for forty years head of the Department of Biology of the University of Colorado and professor emeritus since 1939, died June 10, 1942. He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, November 16, 1870. The University of Minnesota granted him his bachelor's and master's degrees in 1895 and 1896. He served as instructor in botany there for three years and then came to the University of Colorado in 1898 as assistant professor of biology. The following year, after receiving the degree of doctor of philosophy from Minnesota, he became professor and head of the Department of Biology at Colorado; from this time until his retirement, the untiring devotion and wise guidance which he gave the department as well as his insistence upon high standards were factors largely responsible for its growth and high reputation.

In 1904 Professor Ramaley made a trip around the world, spending several months in study at botanical gardens at Buitenzorg, Java, and Peradenyia, Ceylon; he also visited the gardens at Tokyo, Japan. This year of travel and study stimulated his natural interest in economic botany and resulted in valuable collections for the University Herbarium and Museum.

In addition to his heavy teaching load and administrative duties, Professor Ramaley served the University in many other ways. He was acting president in 1902, acting dean of the College of Pharmacy from 1917 to 1919, and acting dean of the Graduate School in 1929 and again from 1932 to 1934. Because of his sound judgment and clear insight, he was a valuable member of many important University committees. In line with his policy of encouraging high standards of scholarship, he aided in the organization of chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, while the University was still young. From the time of the establishment of the "University of Colorado Studies" in 1902, he was the editor, a position which he held until his death.

[1] See frontispiece.